WANG V. ASSET ACCEPTANCE, LLC (CASE NO. C09-04797 EDL) CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE OF NOTICE TO ADVERSE PARTY OF REMOVAL

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1	
1	I, Stephanie Schmitt, declare as follows:
2	I am over the age of 18 years and not a party to this action.
3	I am employed by the firm of Simmonds & Narita, LLP, counsel of record
4	for defendant Asset Acceptance, LLC. My business address is 44 Montgomery
5	Street, Suite 3010, San Francisco, California 94104, which is located in the city
6	and county where the mailing described below took place.
7	On October 8, 2009, I deposited in the United States Mail at San Francisco,
8	California, a copy of the Notice to Adverse Party of Removal dated October 8,
9	2009, a copy of which is attached to this Certificate, to be delivered to the
10	addresses below:
11	Ethan Preston Preston Law Offices
12	1658 North Milwaukee Avenue, No. 253
13	Chicago, IL 60622 Counsel for Plaintiff
14	Harry Shulman The Mills Law Firm
15	880 Las Gallinas Avenue, Suite 2 San Rafael, CA 94903
16	Counsel for Plaintiff
17	I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.
18	Executed in San Francisco on this 8th day of October, 2009.
19	Executed in San Plancisco on this our day of October, 2009.
20	
21	By: Styphu
22	Stephanie Schmitt
23	Stephanie Schintt
24	
25	
26	
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$_{28}$	

### TO PLAINTIFF JOHNNY WANG AND HIS ATTORNEYS OF RECORD: PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Notice of Removal of this action was filed in the United States District Court for the Northern District of California on October 8, 2009 under Federal Court case number C09-04797 EDL. A copy of the Notice of Removal is attached hereto as Exhibit 1 and is served and filed herewith. DATED: October 8, 2009 SIMMONDS & NARITA LLP TOMIO B. NARITA JEFFREY A. TOPOR By: Готіо В. Narita Attorneys for defendant Asset Acceptance, LLC

1	PROOF OF SERVICE	
2	I, the undersigned, declare:	
3	I am employed in the City and County of San Francisco, California. I am over the age of eighteen years and not a party to this action. My business address is 44 Montgomery Street, Suite 3010, San Francisco, California 94104-4816.	
5		
6	I am readily familiar with the business practices of my employer, Simmonds & Narita LLP, for the collection and processing of correspondence by mailing with the United States Postal Service and that said correspondence is	
	deposited with the United States Postal Service that same day in the ordinary course of business.	
8 9	On this date, I served a copy of the following document:	
10	1) NOTICE TO ADVERSE PARTY OF REMOVAL	
11	t.	
12	by causing such document to be placed in a sealed envelope for collection and delivery by the United States Postal Service to the addressees indicated below:	
13	VIA U.S. MAIL	
14	Ethan Preston Preston Law Offices	
15 16	1658 North Milwaukee Avenue, No. 253 Chicago, IL 60622 Counsel for Plaintiff	
17 18 19	Harry Shulman The Mills Law Firm 880 Las Gallinas Avenue, Suite 2 San Rafael, CA 94903 Counsel for Plaintiff	
20		
21	I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed at San Francisco, California on this 8th day of October, 2009.	
22	— C/ C/A.	
23	Knows	
24	Stephanie Schmitt	
25		
26		
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WANG V. ASSET ACCEPTANCE, LLC PROOF OF SERVICE

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### TO THE CLERK OF THE ABOVE-ENTITLED COURT:

. 8

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that defendant Asset Acceptance, LLC ("Asset"), a Delaware Limited Liability Company whose principal place of business is in Warren, Michigan, hereby removes to this Court the state court action described below.

- 1. On August 20, 2009, a complaint was filed against Asset by plaintiff Johnny Wang ("Plaintiff") in an action pending in the Superior Court of the State of California in and for the County of Alameda, entitled *Johnny Wang v. Asset Acceptance, LLC et al.*, Case No. RG09469817. A copy of the state court complaint ("Complaint") is attached hereto as **Exhibit A**.
- 2. This removal petition is timely under 28 U.S.C. § 1446(b) because Asset first received a copy of the Complaint, by hand delivery upon its registered agent for service of process, on September 8, 2009.

#### **JURISDICTION**

- 3. This action is a civil action of which this Court has original jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1332(d)(2)(A) and 1453 because the matter in controversy exceeds the sum or value of \$5,000,000.00, exclusive of interest and costs, and is a class action in which any member of the class of plaintiffs is a citizen of a state different from any defendant, and that may be removed to this Court by Asset pursuant to the provisions of 28 U.S.C. §§ 1441 and 1446.
- 4. Plaintiff alleges that he is a resident of California, and that Asset is a citizen of a different state. *See* Exh. A at ¶¶ 4-5. No members of Asset, which is a limited liability corporation, are citizens of California.
- 5. Plaintiff seeks to recover, *inter alia*, actual damages and punitive damages on behalf of each class member pursuant to section 1785.31 of the California Civil Code, on the ground that "Asset's actions were intentional or reckless." *See id.* at ¶¶ 2-3, 45, 58. That provision of the Civil Code authorizes an award of "[p]unitive damages of not less than one hundred dollars(\$100) nor more

than five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for each violation as the court deems proper." Cal. Civ. Code § 1785.31.(a)(2)(B).

- 5. Plaintiff brings his claims on behalf of two purported classes. The first proposed class consists of California residents about whom Asset furnished information to credit reporting agencies "as owing a debt without also communicating . . . that the person disputed the debt." See Exh. A at ¶ 27(a). The second proposed class consists of "all natural persons" about whom Asset furnished information to credit reporting agencies "as owing a debt, where Asset's records indicate that the debt was incurred in California and is no longer within the statute of limitations." See id. at ¶ 28(a).
- 6. Plaintiff alleges that the "exact number" of class members is "unknown," but avers that there may be as many as 3,598,000 accounts at issue. See id. at ¶ 29 (citing 2008 10-K report for proposition that Asset's "portfolio [of accounts] includes 3,598,000 accounts where the purported debtor resides in California. The population of potential Class members is so huge that even if the percentage that qualified as a member of either Class were very small, it could render individual joinder impracticable.").²
- 7. Assuming, without admitting, that just 1.4 percent of the accounts of California residents allegedly owed by Asset are at issue, the matter in controversy would exceed the sum or value of \$5,000,000. See 28 U.S.C. \$1332(d)(2). Under that scenario, the purported class would have 50,372 members  $(3,598,000 \times .014 = 50,372)$ , each of whom is allegedly entitled to recover any actual damages

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Asset does not concede that class certification is appropriate here.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The second purported class is not geographically limited to California residents, and it is therefore safe to assume that Plaintiff would allege the total number of accounts exceeds 3,598,000.

suffered.<sup>3</sup> For each violation as the Court deems proper, the award of punitive damages would be at least \$100, resulting in damages of at least \$5,037,200 2  $(50,372 \times $100 = $5,037,200).$ 3 **VENUE** 4. 5 The Complaint was filed in the Superior Court of the State of California, County of Alameda. Therefore, venue in the San Francisco Division or 6 the Oakland Division of this District is proper. See Local Rule 3-2(d) (stating "all 7 civil actions which arise in the counties of Alameda, . . . shall be assigned to the 8 San Francisco Division or the Oakland Division"); 28 U.S.C. § 1441(a) (providing for removal "to the district court of the United States for the district and division 10 embracing the place" where the state court action is pending). 11 Defendant Asset is represented by the undersigned. 5. 12 13 14 DATED: October 8, 2009 SIMMONDS & NARITA LLP TOMIO B. NARITA JEFFREY A. TOPOR 15 16 17 By: 18 l'omio B. Narita Attorneys for defendant 19 Asset Acceptance, LLC 20 21 22 23 24 <sup>3</sup> Plaintiff seeks to recover on behalf of himself and other purported class 25 members a variety of actual damages, including "declined and reduced credit, forced 26 purchase of credit reports and credit monitoring, postage and private courier costs, mileage, long-distance telephone charges, lost cell phone airtime, increased credit 27 costs, and amounts paid to settle disputed debts . . . ." See Exh. A at ¶¶ 44, 50, 57 & 28 63.

ENDORSED FILED ALAMEDA COUNTY Ethan Preston (263295) PRESTON LAW OFFICES AUG 2 0 2009 1658 North Milwaukee Avenue, No. 253 Chicago, IL 60622 CLERK OF HESUPERIOR COUR (312) 492-4070 (telephone) (312) 262-1007 (facsimile) ep@eplaw.us Harry Shulman (209908) THE MILLS LAW FIRM 880 Las Gallinas Avenue, Suite 2 San Rafael, CA 94903 (415) 455-1326 (telephone) (415) 455-1327 (facsimile) harry@millslawfirm.com-Attorneys for Plaintiff Johnny Wang, on his own behalf and behalf of all others similarly situated, 10 SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA 11 FOR THE COUNTY OF ALAMEDA 12 JOHNNY WANG, an individual, on his own behalf and on behalf of all others similarly 13 14 Plaintiff, COMPLAINT FOR: 15 Declaratory Judgment;  $\binom{1}{(2)}$ v. Violation of the Consumer Credit 16 Reporting Agencies Act; and ASSET ACCEPTANCE, LLC, a Delaware (3)Violation of the Unfair Competition 17 limited liability company, and DOES 1-100, inclusive, 18 Defendants. 19 CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT 20 Plaintiff Johnny Wang ("Wang" or "Plaintiff"), by his attorneys, makes this complaint 21 against Defendant Asset Acceptance, LLC ("Asset"). Wang's allegations are based on 22 information and belief, except to his own actions, which are based on knowledge. Wang's 23 information and belief are based on the investigation of his counsel, and facts that are a matter 24 of public record. 25 Nature of the Claim 26 1. This class action arises from Defendant's debt collection activities. Asset is 27 one of the largest debt collectors in the country. Its parent company is a publicly-traded corporation on the New York Stock Exchange, and maintains a portfolio of consumer debt Class Action Complaint

with \$32 billion in face value. Asset violates the Consumer Credit Reporting Agencies Act ("CCRAA") (Civ. Code, §§ 1785.1-1785.36) and unfair competition law ("UCL") (Bus. & Prof. Code, § 17200) by reporting certain debts to the credit reporting agencies (including TransUnion, Experian, and Equifax) ("CRAs"), but failing to report that such debts (1) have been disputed, and (2) are past the applicable statute of limitations.

- 2. These practices have caused Wang and other consumers actual damages in the form of declined and reduced credit, forced purchase of credit reports and credit monitoring, postage and private courier costs, mileage, long-distance telephone charges, lost cell phone airtime, increased credit costs, and amounts paid to settle disputed debts not reduced to judgment to improve a credit rating. Moreover, since Asset's actions were intentional or reckless, Plaintiff and the class members are further entitled to a statutory award of punitive damages.
- 3. This is a class action brought on behalf of (1) California residents who have disputed debts, which debts Defendant has failed to report to the CRAs as disputed, and (2) California residents which Defendant reports as owing a debt, but has failed to report that the debt are not within the statute of limitations. Wang seeks remedies including actual damages, statutory damages, attorneys' fees, and injunctive and equitable relief, under CCRAA (Civ. Code, § 1785.31), and the UCL (Bus. & Prof. Code, § 17203).

#### **Parties**

- 4. Plaintiff Johnny Wang is a natural person residing in Oakland, California.
- 5. Defendant Asset Acceptance, LLC is a Delaware limited liability company which maintains its headquarters at 28405 Van Dyke Avenue, Warren, Michigan 48093. Asset's business consists of purchasing and collecting defaulted or charged-off accounts receivable portfolios from consumer credit originators. In connection with this business, Asset regularly and in the ordinary course of its business, collects or attempts to collect debts (or purported debts) from natural persons.
  - 6. Plaintiff is currently ignorant of the true names and capacities, whether

individual, corporate, associate, or otherwise, of the defendants sued herein under the fictitious names Does 1 through 100, inclusive, and therefore, sues such defendants by such fictitious names. Plaintiff will seek leave to amend this complaint to allege the true names and capacities of said fictitiously named defendants when their true names and capacities have been ascertained. Plaintiff is informed and believes and based thereon alleges that each of the fictitiously named Doe defendants is legally responsible in some manner for the events and occurrences alleged herein, and for the damages suffered by Plaintiff.

- 7. Plaintiff is informed and believes and based thereon alleges that all defendants, including the fictitious Doe defendants, were at all relevant times acting as actual agents, conspirators, ostensible agents, partners and/or joint venturers and employees of all other defendants, and that all acts alleged herein occurred within the course and scope of said agency, employment, partnership, and joint venture, conspiracy or enterprise, and with the express and/or implied permission, knowledge, consent, authorization and ratification of their co-defendants; however, each of these allegations are deemed "alternative" theories whenever not doing so would result in a contraction with the other allegations.
- 8. All Defendants, including Does 1 through 100, are collectively referred to as "Defendants." Whenever this complaint makes reference to any act of Defendants, the allegations shall be deemed to mean the act of those defendants named in the particular cause of action, and each of them, acting individually, jointly and severally, unless otherwise alleged.

#### Jurisdiction and Venue

- 9. This court may exercise jurisdiction over this case and these parties under Code of Civil Procedure section 410.10. This is a court of general jurisdiction, and the amount in controversy exceeds this court's jurisdictional minimum. Plaintiff is a California resident.
- 10. Venue is proper under Code of Civil Procedure sections 393 and 395.5. Venue is proper in this County pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure section 395.5 because Asset caused the injury alleged in this complaint to occur in this County and otherwise

limitations for either breach of contract or an account is four years. The statute of limitations on the false debt ran no later than August 6, 2007.

- 17. In early 2008, Wang obtained a copy of his credit report from TransUnion and found that Asset Acceptance had reported the false debt. Wang disputed the false debt tradeline on his TransUnion credit report on or about February 11, 2008, and the false debt was removed from his credit report on or about February 16, 2008.
- 18. Asset Improperly Reports the False Debt in August 2008: On September 12, 2008, Wang obtained another copy of his credit report from TransUnion. (A true and correct excerpt of Wang's September 12, 2008 TransUnion credit report is attached as Exhibit 2.) The September 2008 credit report again contained a tradeline from Asset, which indicates that Asset reported the false debt to TransUnion on August 21, 2008.
- 19. Asset's August 2008 tradeline categorized the debt as "Collection Accounts: Accounts seriously past due" and contained the statement "Date Opened: 04/01/2005" which misleadingly suggest that the debt might still be within the statute of limitations, and otherwise failed to explicitly report that the debt was not in the statute of limitations.
- 20. The "Remarks" section of Asset's August 2008 tradeline was blank, and the tradeline otherwise failed to indicate that Wang had disputed the debt in litigation. If Asset had properly reported the credit card balances to TransUnion as disputed, 15 U.S.C. § 1681c(f) required TransUnion to ensure that Asset's tradeline reflected that Wang disputed the underlying debt. On the basis of the foregoing, Wang alleges that Asset reported the tradeline to TransUnion on August 21, 2008, but failed to communicate that Wang disputed the false debt.
- 21. Wang Disputes the False Debt in November 2008: Pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1681i, Wang disputed the debt with TransUnion in writing in late November 2008, carbon-copying Asset. By letter dated December 15, 2008, TransUnion indicated that Wang's credit report had been updated by adding the following statement in the "Remarks" section of Asset's tradeline: "ACCT INFO DISPUTED BY CONSUMR." (A true and correct excerpt of

TransUnion's December 15, 2008 letter to Wang is attached as Exhibit 3.)

- 22. Asset Improperly Reports the False Debt in June 2009: On July 22, 2009, Wang obtained yet another copy of his credit report from TransUnion. (A true and correct excerpt of Wang's July 22, 2009 TransUnion credit report is attached as Exhibit 4.) The July 2009 credit report again the Asset tradeline, which reflected that Asset last reported the false debt to TransUnion in June 2009.
- 23. Asset's June 2009 tradeline contained the notations "Date placed for collection: [04/2005]," "Account Type: Open Account," "Pay Status: >Collection Account<," and otherwise failed to note that the false debt was out of the statute of limitations.
- 24. Asset's June 2009 tradeline replaced TransUnion's December 2008 notation in the "Remarks" section (which properly noted that Wang disputed the false debt) with the notation ">Placed for collection<." In effect, Asset's June 2009 tradeline not only reported inaccurate and incomplete information, it did so by striking out and replacing accurate information supplied by TransUnion.
- 25. Wang's Damages: Wang began to dispute the false debt in 2007. In the course of disputing the false debt, Wang has incurred charges for postage for mailing disputes, long distance telephone charges, lost cellular telephone airtime, lost wages for time spent disputing matters, and charges for the purchase of credit reports. Wang was unable to rent his current residence without a co-signor, and was unable to co-sign for his partner's rental residence because of the false debt on his credit report. Wang has also been notified that he has been refused higher credit lines on business and personal credit cards, because of Asset's derogatory tradeline on his credit report.

#### Allegations as to Class Certification

- 26. Wang seeks certification of two classes pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure section 382, for both final and interim relief.
- 27. **Disputed Debt Class Definition:** Wang brings this complaint against Asset and the other Defendants, on behalf of himself and a class of all natural persons residing in

1	California	
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3	(a)	whom Asset or its agents reported, stated, or represented to any CRA owing a debt without also communicating to the CRA that the person disputed the debt; and
5	(b)	which debt Asset knows or should know is disputed because the personal transfer of the personal
6		with any of the CRAs under 15 U.S.C. § 1681i(a)(1), where Asset received notice of the dispute under 15 U.S.C. § 1681i(a)(2); or (iii)
7 8		any person who previously held the disputed debt and later sold it to Asset, where Asset received notice of the dispute in connection with purchase of the debt; except
9	(c)	not any person who is (i) any Judge or Magistrate presiding over this
10		parents, successors, predecessors, and any entity in which the Defendants or their parents have a controlling interest, and current or
11 12		former employees, officers and directors of Defendants; (iii) persons who properly execute and file a timely request for exclusion from the class; (iv) and the legal representatives, successors or assigns of any such excluded persons.
13	("Disputed Debt Cla	iss") Members of the Disputed Debt Class can be readily identified from
	II.	. Members of the Disputed Debt Class may be notified of the pendency
	[ <del>]</del>	
		mail, and/or supplemented (if deemed necessary or appropriate by the
	Court) by published	
17		ut-Of-Statute Debt Class Definition: Wang brings this complaint aga
18	Asset and the other I	Defendants, on behalf of himself and a class of all natural persons
19	(a)	whom Asset or its agents reported, stated, or represented to any CRA
20		owing a debt, where Asset's records indicate that the debt was incurre in California and is no longer within the statute of limitations; and
21	(b)	Asset has (i) has reported the debt as due, owing, open, and/or collectible; (ii) has reported the debt as placed for collections on a dat
22		which would bring the debt within the statute of limitations, and/or G
23		failed to communicate to the CRA that the debt is not within the statu- of limitations; except
24	(c)	not any person who is (i) any Judge or Magistrate presiding over this
25		parents, successors, predecessors, and any entity in which the
26		Defendants or their parents have a controlling interest, and current or former employees, officers and directors of Defendants: (iii) persons
27		who properly execute and file a timely request for exclusion from the class; (iv) and the legal representatives, successors or assigns of any
28	,	such excluded persons.

Class Action Complaint

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subdivision (c).

statutory punitive damages pursuant to Civil Code section 1785.31,

1 2	31. Or	ut-of-Statute Debt Commonality: Common questions of fact and law
3	exist as to all membe	ers of the Out-of-Statute Debt Class and predominate over the questions
	affecting only individ	dual members of the Out-of-Statute Debt Class. Identification of the
4 5	individuals who qual	ify as a member of the Out-of-Statute Debt Class will be sufficient to
	establish liability to t	the class member. These common questions include whether:
6 7	(a)	Defendants knew or should have known that an Out-of-Statute Debt Class member's alleged debt had passed the statute of limitations;
8	(b)	Defendants' records indicate that an Out-of-Statute Debt Class member's alleged debt had passed the statute of limitations;
10 11	(c)	Defendants communicated to any CRA that an Out-of-Statute Debt Class member owed a such debt, but failed to communicate to the CRA that the debt had passed the statute of limitations, and/or communicated that the debt was due and owing, and/or was placed for collections on a date would bring the debt within the statute of limitations
12	(d)	Defendants' communication to the CRA is materially misleading;
13	(e)	Defendants' conduct violated Civil Code section 1785.25(a);
14 15	(f)	Plaintiff and other members of the Out-of-Statute Debt Class are entitled to damages, costs, injunctive relief, and attorneys' fees; and
16 17	(g)	Plaintiff and other members of the Out-of-Statute Debt Class are entitled to statutory punitive damages pursuant to Civil Code section 1785.31, subdivision (c).
18	32. <b>T</b> ;	ypicality: Plaintiff's claims are typical of the claims of the other members
19	of the respective Cla	sses. Plaintiff is not different in any relevant way from any other member
20	of the respective Cla	sses, and the relief he seeks is common to the respective Classes.
21	33. <b>A</b>	dequate Representation: Plaintiff will fairly and adequately represent
22	and protect the intere	ests of the other members of the respective Classes: his interests do not
23	conflict with their re	spective interests. Plaintiff has retained counsel competent and
24	experienced in comp	olex class actions, and he intend to prosecute this action vigorously.
25	34. P	redominance and Superiority: The respective Classes alleged in this
26	Complaint are appro	priate for certification because class proceedings are superior to all other
27	available methods for	or the fair and efficient adjudication of this controversy, since joinder of a
28		cable. The damages suffered by each individual member of the respective
	Class Action Complaint	9

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Classes will likely be relatively small, especially given the burden and expense of individual prosecution of the complex litigation necessitated by Defendants' actions. It would be virtually impossible for members of the respective Classes individually to obtain effective relief from Defendant's misconduct. Even if members of the respective Classes themselves could sustain such individual litigation, it would still not be preferable to a class action, because individual litigation would increase the delay and expense to all parties due to the complex legal and factual controversies presented in this Complaint. By contrast, class actions present far fewer management difficulties and provides the benefits of single adjudication, economy of scale. and comprehensive supervision by a single Court. Economies of time, effort, and expense will be fostered and uniformity of decisions will be ensured.

35. Generally Applicable Policies: This class action is also appropriate for certification because Defendants have acted or refused to act on grounds generally applicable to the class, thereby making appropriate final injunctive relief or corresponding declaratory relief with respect to the respective Classes as a whole. The policies of the Defendants challenged herein apply and affect members of the respective Classes uniformly, and Plaintiff's challenge of these policies hinges on Defendants' conduct, not on facts or law applicable only to Plaintiff.

### (Declaratory Relief, Code of Civil Procedure Section 1060) (By Plaintiff, individually only, against All Defendants)

- 36. Wang incorporates by reference and realleges all paragraphs previously alleged herein.
- 37. Asset has asserted that Wang owes the overdue balance on the Pacific Bell Telephone account directly to Wang, as well as to the CRAs. Conversely, Wang has disputed this purported debt in writing through Asset's attorneys, and through the CRAs. Even if Wang were liable on the Pacific Bell Telephone account in the past (which Wang has consistently and vehemently contested at every turn), Asset's pleadings and documentation of the account demonstrate that the statute of limitation on that account ran no later than August 3, 2007,

1 2 3	38. There is an actual controversy and dispute between Wang and Asset relating to the legal rights and duties of the purported balance on the Pacific Bell Telephone account.  Disputing this controversy has caused Plaintiff to incur concrete, actual harm including lost		
4 5	time and expenses in communicating with Asset and the CRAs. The controversy between  Wang and Asset has sufficient immediacy and reality to warrant the issuance of a declaratory		
6 7 8	judgment. Plaintiff, on an individual basis and not on a class basis, seeks a declaratory judgment under Code of Civil Procedure section 1060 that he is not liable for the purported debt asserted by Asset.		
9 10 11	SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION (Violation of the Consumer Credit Reporting Agencies Act (Civ. Code, § 1785.25, subd. (a), by Plaintiff, individually and on behalf of the Disputed Debt Class, Against All Defendants)		
12	39. Wang incorporates by reference and realleges all paragraphs previously		
13	alleged herein.		
14	40. TransUnion, Experian, and Equifax are consumer credit reporting agencies		
15	under the meaning of Civil Code section 1785.3, subdivision (d).		
16	41. The CCRAA prohibits persons from furnishing information on specific		
17	transactions "to any consumer credit reporting agency if the person knows or should know the		
18	information is incomplete or inaccurate." (Civ. Code, § 1785.25, subd. (a).)		
19	42. Defendants received notice that Wang and the other members of the		
20	Disputed Debt Class disputed the amount and validity of the debts Defendants allege that the		
21	were obligated to pay.		
22	43. Defendants nonetheless reported those alleged debts to the CRAs, but faile		
23	to also communicate that the debts had been disputed. Defendants furnished information they		
24	knew or should have known to be incomplete and inaccurate to the CRAs. Defendants violat		
25	Civil Code section 1785.25, subdivision (a).		
26	44. Wang and the other members of the Disputed Debt Class have suffered		
27	actual injury as a result of the Defendants' violation of the CCRAA. These injuries include		
28	declined and reduced credit, forced purchase of credit reports and credit monitoring, postage		

and private courier costs, mileage, long-distance telephone charges, lost cell phone airtime, increased credit costs, and amounts paid to settle disputed debts not reduced to judgment to improve a credit rating. Moreover, since Asset's actions were intentional or reckless, Wang and the other members of the Disputed Debt Class are further entitled to a statutory award of punitive damages.

45. Wang, on his own behalf, and behalf of the other Disputed Debt Class members, seeks to recover actual or statutory damages, in an amount to be determined at trial, injunctive and equitable relief, and the costs of the action (including attorneys' fees) under Civil Code section 1785.31.

## THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION (Violation of the UCL (Bus. & Prof. Code, § 17200), by Plaintiff, individually and on behalf of the Disputed Debt Class, Against All Defendants)

- 46. Wang incorporates by reference and realleges all paragraphs previously alleged herein.
- 47. Defendants' reports to the CRAs regarding the debts disputed by the Disputed Debt Class members were deceptive and misleading because they omitted the material information that the debts were disputed. Creditors and other have relied on this misleading information that the Defendants reported to the CRAs, and have made credit available to the Disputed Debt Class members on terms that are less favorable than they would otherwise be.
- 48. Defendants' foregoing practices were unlawful and violated Civil Code section 1785.25, subdivision (a).
- 49. Defendants' foregoing practices were deceptive and unlawful, and violated Business and Professions Code section 17200.
- 50. Wang and the other members of the Class have been injured and have lost money and property as a result of the Defendants' violations of the unfair competition law.

  These injuries include declined and reduced credit, forced purchase of credit reports and credit monitoring, postage and private courier costs, mileage, long-distance telephone charges, lost

increased credit costs, and amounts paid to settle disputed debts not reduced to judgment to improve a credit rating. Moreover, since Asset's actions were intentional or reckless, Wang and the other members of the Out-of-Statute Debt Class are further entitled to a statutory award of punitive damages.

Wang, on his own behalf, and behalf of the other Out-of-Statute Debt Class members, seeks to recover actual or statutory damages, in an amount to be determined at trial, injunctive and equitable relief, and the costs of the action (including attorneys' fees) under Civil Code section 1785.31.

## FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION (Violation of the UCL (Bus. & Prof. Code, § 17200), by Plaintiff, individually and on behalf of the Disputed Debt Class, Against All Defendants)

- 59. Wang incorporates by reference and realleges all paragraphs previously alleged herein.
- 60. Defendants' reports to the CRAs regarding the Out-of-Statute Debt Class members' alleged debts were deceptive and misleading because they omitted the material information that the debts were no longer within the applicable statutes of limitations. Creditors and other have relied on this misleading information that the Defendants reported to the CRAs, and have made credit available to the Out-of-Statute Debt Class members on terms that are less favorable than they would otherwise be.
- 61. Defendants' foregoing practices were unlawful and violated Civil Code section 1785.25, subdivision (a).
- 62. Defendants' foregoing practices were deceptive and unlawful, and violated Business and Professions Code section 17200.
- 63. Wang and the other Out-of-Statute Debt Class members have been injured and have lost money and property as a result of the Defendants' violations of the unfair competition law. These injuries include declined and reduced credit, forced purchase of credit reports and credit monitoring, postage and private courier costs, mileage, long-distance telephone charges, lost cell phone airtime, increased credit costs, and amounts paid to settle

. 1	fraudulent debts.	
2		Vang, on his own behalf, and behalf of the other Out-of-Statute Debt Class
3.		unctive and equitable relief under Business & Professions Code section
4		s of the action (including attorneys' fees) under Code of Civil Procedure
5	section 1021.5.	or the action (morating attorneys lees) under Code of Civil Procedure
6		RE, Plaintiff Johnny Wang prays that the Court enter judgment and orders
7		inst Defendant Asset Acceptance, LLC as follows:
8		
9	(a)	An order certifying the Disputed Debt Class, directing that this case proceed as a class action, and appointing Wang and his counsel to represent the Disputed Debt Class;
10	(b)	An order certifying the Out-of-Statute Debt Class, directing that this
11		case proceed as a class action, and appointing Wang and his counsel to represent the Out-of-Statute Debt Class;
12	(c)	Judgment against Defendants, and in favor of Wang and the other
13		members of the respective Classes, in an amount of actual damages and statutory damages to be determined at trial;
14	(d)	Equitable and injunctive relief prohibiting Defendants from continuing
15		violations of the CCRAA and ÛCL;
16	(e)	An order granting costs and attorneys' fees; and
17	(f)	Such other and further relief as this Court may deem appropriate.
18	Dated: August 20, 2	009 By:
19		Ethan Preston (263295) PRESTON LAW OFFICES
20 21		1658 North Milwaukee Avenue, No. 253 (312) 492-4070 (phone)
22		(312) 262-1007 (facsimile) ep@eplaw.us
23		Harry Shulman (209908)
24		THE MILLS LAW FIRM 880 Las Gallinas Avenue, Suite 2
25	•	San Rafael, CA 94903 (415) 455-1326 (telephone)
26		(415) 455-1327 (facsimile) harry@millslawfirm.com
27		Attorneys for Plaintiff Johnny Wang, on his own behalf and behalf of all others
28		similarly situated,
	Class Action Complaint	15

JURY TRIAL DEMAND Plaintiffs hereby demand a trial by jury of all issues so triable. Dated: August 20, 2009 By: Ethan Preston (263295) PRESTON LAW OFFICES 1658 North Milwaukee Avenue, No. 253 Chicago, IL 60622 (312) 492-4070 (phone) (312) 262-1007 (facsimile) ep@eplaw.us Harry Shulman (209908)
THE MILLS LAW FIRM
880 Las Gallinas Avenue, Suite 2
San Rafael, CA 94903
(415) 455-1326 (telephone)
(415) 455-1327 (facsimile)
harry@millslawfirm.com Attorneys for Plaintiff Johnny Wang, on his own behalf and behalf of all others similarly situated, Class Action Complaint 

## EXHIBIT 1

	DOE 036
ATTORNEY OR PARTY WITHOUT ATTORNEY (Name, State Bar number, and address):	POS-030
Johnny K. Wang 839/Portal Ave Oakland, CA 94610	
839/Partal Aires	
Opletand CA G4/510	
THE FOLLOWING TO THE COMME	
TELEPHONE NO.: 510-551 - 6900  E-MAIL ADDRESS (Optional): FAX NO. (Optional):	
ATTORNEY FOR (Nisme):	
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF Alameda	
VZL) NACUIV JI.	
MAILING ADDRESS: CITY AND ZIE CODE O 2 C/2 1 C/D 9 W//17	
BRANCHMANE Rene C. Maridson Courthouse	
HRANCH NAME: Rene C. Davidson Courthquil  PETITIONER/PLAINTIFF: Asset Acceptance LLC	
Property and Park and Property	***
RESPONDENTIONE FENDANT: Johnny K Wang	
	CASE NUMBER:
PROOF OF SERVICE BY FIRST-CLASS MAIL—CIVIL	WG07320275
(Do not use this Proof of Service to show service of a Summons a	
I am over 18 years of age and not a party to this action. I am a resident of or employed took place.	In the county where the mailing
took place.	and addity where the maining
2. My residence or business address is: <20 0 + / A	
2. My residence or business address is: 839 Partal Ave Oakland, CA 94610	
(SEINZ, CH 94610	
3. On (date): 6-11-07 I malled from (city and state): Q = L(x, L), Of the following documents (specify):	
Answer	
The documents are listed in the Attachment to Proof of Service by First-Class Mali (form PQS-030(D)).	Civil (Documents Served)
4. I served the documents by enclosing them in an envelope and (check one):	
a: tel depositing the sealed envelope with the United States Postal Service with the	postage fully prepaid.
b. placing the envelope for collection and mailing following our ordinary business	practices. I am readily familiar with this
business's practice for collecting and processing correspondence for mailing. O placed for collection and mailing, it is deposited in the ordinary course of business.	In the same day that correspondence is
a sealed envelope with postage fully prepaid.	and the primer control i control and and the
5. The envelope was addressed and mailed as follows:	
a. Name of person served: Kevin Sullivan b. Address of person served:	•
b. Address of person served:	
301 RAWORD St. Ste 830	
301 Harried St. Ste 830 Son Francisco, CA 94105	
The name and address of each person to whom I mailed the documents is listed in by First-Class Mail—Civil (Persons Served) (POS-030(P)).	the Attachment to Proof of Service
I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing	is true and correct.
Date:	NA
To Marie Mar	
(TYPE OR PRINT NAME OF PERSON/COMPLETING THIS FORM)	
From Browned By Codesed Lee	CONFIDENCE OF THE FORM
Judges Council of California PROOF OF SERVICE BY FIRST-CLASS MAIL— (Proof of Service)	Code of Civil Procedure, \$5 1013, 1013a www.fourersca.gov

	ENDORSED FILED ALAMEDA COUNTY
1	Johnny K. Wang (In Pro Per) 839 Portal Ave.  JUN 0 4 2007
2	Oakland, CA 94610 Telephone (510) 551-6900 CLERK OF THE SUPERIOR COURT
4	In Pro Per  By Tasha Perry, Deputy
5	SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
6	FOR THE COUNTY OF ALAMEDA
7	A COPPT A COPPTA NOTE A LO
, 8	ASSET ACCEPTANCE, LLC, Case No. WG07320275
9	Plaintiff, ANSWER vs.
10	JOHNNY K. WANG, and DOES 1 to 10, inclusive,
11.	Defendants.
12	L'OIGIGARIS.
13	Defendant JOHNNY K. WANG answers the Complaint of Plaintiff ASSET
14	ACCEPTANCE, LLC, as follows:
15	GENERAL DENIAL
16	Pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure Section 431.30(d), Defendant denies,
17	generally and specifically, each and every allegation in the unverified Complaint and each
18	purported cause of action thereof, and further denies that Plaintiff or any other persons have
19	been damaged in any sum, or at all, by reason of any act or omission of Defendant. Defendant
20	further asserts the following separate and affirmative defenses.
21	AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSES
22	First Affirmative Defense
23	(Failure to State Cause of Action)
24	Neither the Complaint, nor any purported claim for relief set forth therein, states a claim
25	upon which relief can be granted.
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-1-ANSWER [Case No. WG07320275]

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#### Second Affirmative Defense (Failure to Mitigate Damages) Plaintiff failed to mitigate damages which it contends it suffered and is therefore barred 3 4 from recovery. 5 Third Affirmative Defense 6 (Unclean Hands) Plaintiff's claims are barred and Plaintiff is precluded from obtaining relief because of 7 8 Plaintiff's unclean hands. 9 Fourth Affirmative Defense 10 (Waiver/Estoppel) 11 Plaintiff has waived and is estopped by its own actions, inactions and/or other conduct 12 from bringing any claims against Defendant. 13 Fifth Affirmative Defense 14 (Laches) 15 This action is barred under the doctrine of laches because Plaintiff unreasonably 16 delayed in bringing this action against Defendant. 17 Sixth Affirmative Defense 18 (Ratification and Acquiescence) Defendant is informed and believes, and based on such information and belief, alleges 19 20 that Plaintiff acknowledged, ratified, consented to and acquiesced in the alleged acts or 21 omissions, if any, of Defendant, thus barring Plaintiff from any relief as prayed for in the 22 Complaint. 23 Seventh Affirmative Defense 24 (Statute of Limitations) 25 The Complaint and each cause of action therein are barred by applicable statute of 26 limitations to the extent that Plaintiff bases its claims on conduct occurring outside the relevant 27 limitations periods, including but not limited to Civil Code Sections 51 and 1783, California 28

ANSWER
[Case No. WG07320275]

1.	Code of Civil Procedure sections 337, 337a, 337.1, 338, 338.1, 339, 340, 343, et seq. and
2	Business and Professions Code Section 17208.
3	Eighth Affirmative Defense
4	(Acts and Omissions of Plaintiff)
5	Without conceding that the Plaintiff has suffered any injuries, losses, or damages, any
6	such injuries, losses, or damages are the result of acts or omissions of Plaintiff.
7	Ninth Affirmative Defense
8	(Acts and Omissions of Others)
9	Without conceding that the Plaintiff has suffered any injuries, losses, or damages, any
10	such injuries, losses, or damages are the result of acts or omissions of third parties.
11	Tenth Affirmative Defense
12	(Privilege)
13	Plaintiff is barred from seeking relief against Defendant because Defendant was
14	privileged to act as he did and/or believed in good faith that she was protecting his legal rights.
15	Eleventh Affirmative Defense
16.	(Statute of Frauds)
17	The Complaint and each cause of action therein are barred by the statute of frauds.
18	Twelfth Affirmative Defense
19	(Failure of Condition Precedent)
20	Plaintiff is barred from recovery under the contract because a condition precedent,
21:	approval of a loan arranged by Plaintiff, never occurred.
22	Thirteenth Affirmative Defense
23	(Excuse)
24	Defendant is excused from performance under the contract because of Plaintiff's breach
, 25	and failure of consideration.
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#### Fourteenth Affirmative Defense

#### (Setoff)

Any amounts owed by Defendant to Plaintiff are more than offset by damages to Defendant caused by Plaintiff.

#### Fifteenth Affirmative Defense

#### (Additional Defenses)

Defendant presently lacks information and belief as to whether he may have additional, as yet unstated affirmative defenses available. Defendant therefore reserves the right to assert such additional affirmative defenses as permitted by law.

Wherefore, Defendant prays for relief as follows:

- 1. That Plaintiffs' Complaint be dismissed in its entirety;
- 2. That Defendant have judgment against Plaintiff;
- 3. That Defendant be awarded costs of suit and attorneys' fees incurred herein;
- 4. That Defendant be awarded such and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

Dated: June 1, 2007



Johnny K. Wang

### Single Credit Report

Johnny Wang Consumer Credit Report Source: TransUnion

File Identification Number: 110347814

This report is available until Oct 12, 2008

Personal Information

CREDIT REPORT DATE: 09/12/2008

**CURRENT ADDRESS:** OAKLAND CA, 94610

DATE UPDATED:

NAME:

JOHNNY K WANG

PREVIOUS ADDRESS: OAKLAND CA, 94618

DATE OF BIRTH:

1973

DATE UPDATED:

OAKLAND CA, 94611

EMPLOYER:

DATE UPDATED:

Consumer Statement

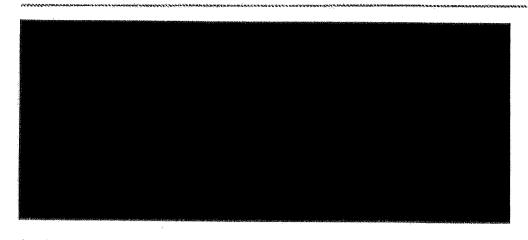
NONE REPORTED

Summery

Account History

At a glance viewing of your payment history (W) M m Not Unknown Current 30 days 50 days 90 days 120 days 150+ days Payment Reposession Collection

Open late late late late late plan | Inreclusure Chargeoff top that apr may just july alge sep act mot due 106 Jets may app may just that must see act may dec 107



Collection Accounts: Accounts seriously past due

ASSET ACCEPT

Original

PACIFIC BELL TEL DBA SBC

Creditor:

CALIF

Account No.: 2332\*\*\*\*

High Balance:

7065

Date Opened:

04/01/2005

Date

08/21/2008 Balance:

8562

Condition:

Derogatory

Reported:

Responsibility: Individual

Remarks:

Other: Accounts in which the exect category is unknown

PG&E

Account #: 1320\*\*

Type:

Collection Agency Attorney

Opened:

06/25/1998

Condition: Derogatory Pay Status: Collection/Chargeoff

50

Payment:

\$0

Reported:

06/01/2006

Balance: timit:

\$0

Past Due:

\$.00

Responsibility: Shared High balance: \$130

Terms:

Provided

7-year history:

Remarks:

30-days late 0

60-days late 0

90 days late 0

Two-Year payment history:

Transdation

NONE REPORTED

Public Information

NONE REPORTED

\*\*\* 195290231-009 \*\*\* P.O. Box 6790 Fullenon, CA 92834



12/15/2008

AND DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY.

TransUnion.

P0D564002034424023983 JOHNNY K. WANG

Udanhild millional ald black add delicated

Our investigation of the dispute you recently submitted is now complete. The results are listed below.

If our investigation has not resolved your dispute, you may add a 100-word statement to your report. If you provide a consumer statement that contains medical information related to service providers or medical procedures, then you expressly consent to TransUnion including this information in every credit report we issue about you.

If there has been a change to your credit history resulting from our investigation, or if you add a consumer statement, you may request that TransUnion send an updated report to those who received your report within the last two years for employment purposes, or within the last one year for any other purpose.

If interested, you may also request a description of how the investigation was conducted along with the business name, address and telephone number of any company we may have contacted for information.

Thank you for tielping ensure the accuracy of your credit information.

#### **Investigation Results**

ITEM ASSET ACCEPTANCE LLC

DESCRIPTION

RESULTS

# 23325609

NEW INFORMATION BELOW

flie Number Pager Date Issued





Special Notes: If any item on your credit report begins with "MED1", it includes medical information and the data following "MED1" is not displayed to anyone but you except where permitted by law.

#### Account Information 228

The key to the right helps explain the payment history information contained in some of the accounts below. Not all accounts will contain payment history information, but some creditors report how you make payments each month in relation to your agreement with them.

OK

tate

Hot Applicable late

60 days tato

90 days 120 days late

Adverse Accounts

The following accounts contain information which some creditors may consider to be adverse. Adverse account information may generally be reported for 7 years from the date of the first delinquency, depending on your state of residence. The adverse information in these accounts has been printed in bracketse or is shaded for your convenients, to help you understand your report. They are not bracketed or shaded this way for creditors, (note: The account if may be scrambled by the creditor for your protection).

ASSET ACCEPTANCE LLC #23325609

PO BOX 2036 WARREN, MI 48090-2036

(80U) 398-881A

LOAD Type: FACTORING COMPANY ACCOUNT Remarks: ACCT MFO DISPUTED BY CONSUME Date placed for collection: 0a/2005 Estimated date that this item will be removed: 04/2010

Betances 98,699

Date Verified: 12/2008 Original Amount: \$7,065

Oliginal Craditor: PACIFIC BELL TEL DBA SBC CALIF Pant Dum

38,600

Pay Status: SCOLLEGRON ACCOUNTS Account Type: OPEN ACCOUNT Responsibility: INDIVIDUAL ACCOUNT

- End of investigation results -

To view a free copy of your full, updated credit file, go to our website http://disclosure.transunion.com

#### TransUnion

Annual Creat Report from Astum to Annual Credit Report com / Frequently Asked Questions > Contact AnnualConditReport.com Trans**Union.**. your products: your account | help: logout secorby Nevious transunion credit month [ report on inaccuracy consumics affaits

#### Personal Credit Report

JOHNNY K, WANG Source: TransUnion

July 22, 2009 Available until Aug 21, 2009 Get Instant Message Updates About Your Credit Report

- · Alerts you to possible fraud
- Sont to your desktop
- · No need to shook email

Free downtoadable application Fater taxas >>

Compare 0% Credit Cards



Find a Low Mortgage Rate









Display a printer friendly version

Found an Insecuracy? Click to learn about correcting

### Personal Information

JOHNNY K. WANG

You have been on our filter since 04/1993

SSN: Date of Birth: Telephone



Fila Number:

#### **CURRENT ADDRESS**

Date Reported:



#### **PREVIOUS ADDRESSES**

Address:

Date Reported:

Address:



Special Motes: If any item on your could report begins with "MED1", it includes medical information and the data following "MED1" is not displayed to anyone but you accept where presetted by law.

The key to the right helps explain the payment history information contained in some of the accounts below. Not all accounts will contain payment history information, but some creditors report how you make payments each mouth in relation to your agreement with them.

Unknown Current 30 days 60 days 90 days 120 days late late late



The following eccounts costain information that some creditors may consider to be adverse. Adverse account recommission may generally be reported for 7 years from the date of the first distribution, depending on your elaste of residence. The adverse information in these accounts has been printed in > brackeds < or is shaded for your convenience, to help you understand your report. They are not brackeded or shaded this way for creditors. (Note: The account it may be accompred by the creditor for your protection),

TransUnion

#### ASSET ACCEPTANCE LLC #23325609

PO BOX 2036 WARREN MI 48090-2036 (000) 398-6814

Bulance Date Updated: Original Balance:

Past Dus:

06/2009 \$7,005 PACIFIC BELL 1EL 08A SBC CALIF Original Creditor:

> 5B 9194

\$8,919

Pay Status: Account Type: Responsibility: > Collection Accounts Open Account Individual Account

Loan Type: Factoring Company Account

Remark: » Placed for collections Date placed for collection: [ 04/2005]

Estimated date that this item will be removed: 04/2010

#### PACIFIC GAS & ELECTRIC #1320982787

PD BOX 8329 STOCKTON , CA 95208 (800) 743-5000

Balance: Date Verified: High Balance:

Past Duck

09/2008 51.30 50

Pay Status: Account Type: Responsibility: \*Payarum Aller Charge Off/Collections Open Account Participant on Account 06/1998

09/2004

Date Opened: Date Closed:

Lonn Type: Collection Agency Astorney Remark: >Paid collections

Estimated date that this item will be removed: 08/2011

#### Satisfactory Accounts

The following accounts are reported with me advacine information. (Note: The account a may be separabled by the craditor for your protection).

